Poaching of Lions

†1101. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lions are now being targeted by the poachers and are being threatened by natural calamities after tigers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check the same; and

(c) the total number of lions in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

However, to provide maximum protection to the animal, lion has been included in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, necessary technical and financial assistance is provided to the State for protection of wildlife including lions.

(c) As reported by Government of Gujarat, there are 359+10 Asiatic Lions in the State, wich is the only habitat for lions in India.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

1102. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee appointed by his Ministry had ever recommended the granting of autonomous status to the erstwhile Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, a subordinate office of his Ministry;

(b) if so, what are recommendations of the committees thus formed; and

(c) if not, the under whose order it has been granted autonomous status and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No specific Committee was constituted by this Ministry for granting the autonomous status to the indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.

(c) Autonomous status of ICFRE and its registration under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, has the approval of the Union Cabinet.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.